

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-04
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053979

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN REQUESTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: KINSHASA 2090

1. DEPARTMENT AND DOD PRESENTLY STAFFING POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU. HOWEVER THERE ARE QUESTIONS, RAISED ALSO BY EMBASSY, AS TO RELEVANCE OF AID INVOLVING REHABILITATION OF MACCHI AIRCRAFT. ADDITIONAL REQUESTS BY GOZ (PARA 3 REFTEL) HAVE NOT RPT NOT YET ARRIVED. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO BE FORTHCOMING BUT WISH TO AVOID PIECEMEAL REACTION LEADING TO CONFUSION OF PRIORITIES.

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2. WE WOULD PREFER THAT MISSION ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE ZAIRIAN MILITARY TO APPROACH ITS URGENT NEEDS IN COMPREHENSIVE FASHION, SPECIFYING PRIORITIES. REFERENCE TO AMMUNITION AND C-130 SPARE PARTS NEEDS, FOR INSTANCE, MIGHT BE MORE RELEVANT TO PRESENT SITUATION THAN LONGER TERM ACTIVITIES. WE ARE ALSO STRUCK BY REPORT FAZ ACTIVITIES IN SHABA REGION RESTRICTED BY POL SHORTAGES,

AND ASSUME POL SUPPLY PROBLEM WILL INTENSIFY. CAN
MISSION IDENTIFY AVAILABILITY OF POL SUPPLIES IN SHABA

AND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES, IN CASE WE COULD
PLAY USEFUL ROLE IN THIS AREA?

3. MISSION IS REQUESTED ALSO TO ADD ITS OWN EVALUATION
OF ZAIRIAN ANALYSIS, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO URGENT
NEEDS. WASHINGTON AGENCIES, FOR INSTANCE, ARE POORLY
INFORMED AS TO STATE OF READINESS, EQUIPMENT, AND
SUPPLIES OF ZAIRIAN FORCES. WE ASSUME ZAMISH IS IN
CONTACT WITH BELGIAN AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES AND WE
HOPE YOU CAN PROVIDE US SOONEST WITH COMPREHENSIVE
PROFESSIONAL ANALYSIS OF FAZ AND FAZA IMMEDIATE NEEDS.
ARE THERE AREAS WHERE WE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGING ALLIES
TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE (E.G., PANHARDS,
USE OF MIRAGES).

4. MISSION IS ALSO ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER POTENTIALLY
USEFUL TYPES OF ASSISTANCE WHICH ZAIRIANS HAVE NOT
RPT NOT THOUGHT OF THEMSELVES. (DO NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS
THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH ZAIRIANS).
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Message Attributes

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